

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency, there are procedures to follow which vary depending on the type of emergency.

Only if you have a medical emergency or your vessel is in grave or imminent danger, should you place a "Mayday" call. In order to assist rescue personell, the following information should be included in your "Mayday" call:

- 1) **"MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY"**
- 2) **Vessel name**
- 3) **Your current location**
- 4) **Type of emergency**
- 5) **Type of assistance needed**
- 6) **Number of people on board your vessel and the condition of any injured people**
- 7) **The condition of your vessel**
- 8) **Description of your vessel**

You should give the information in the above order. In the event your radio fails during, or shortly after, your Mayday call rescue personnel will know who, where, and for what they are searching for. The above procedure should only be used in an extreme emergency.

If your vessel is out of gas or you are experiencing engine trouble, this is not a Mayday but a Pan Pan. A Pan Pan situation (pronounced Pon Pon) indicates that you have a very urgent message concerning the safety of a vessel or person. The information you provide is the same as above except use the prowords "Pan Pan" repeated three times instead of the proword "Mayday", ie: "Pan Pan, Pan Pan, Pan Pan...".

If you hear a "Mayday" call, write down the information given. If a search and rescue authority does not respond, assist the vessel in distress or relay their Mayday call to authorities.



THE ABC'S

The Phonetic Alphabet

A	Alpha
B	Bravo
C	Charlie
D	Delta
E	Echo
F	Foxtrot
G	Golf
H	Hotel
I	India
J	Juliet
K	Kilo
L	Lima
M	Mike
N	November
O	Oscar
P	Papa
Q	Quebec
R	Romeo
S	Sierra
T	Tango
U	Uniform
V	Victor
W	Whiskey
X	X-ray
Y	Yankee
Z	Zulu



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THE



ABC's OF MARINE RADIO USE



MARINE RADIO BASICS

In October 1996, the FCC eliminated the licensing requirement for marine radios when used by recreational boaters in the United States. However, FCC regulations still apply and violators are subject to **fines up to \$10,000**. The marine radio is monitored by both the FCC and the U. S. Coast Guard. Both agencies have sensitive radio direction finders to track a violator, such as a false "Mayday" caller.

Rules for radio operation are mainly common sense, and therefore, easy to remember and follow. The following is a summary of the rules to help you use your radio properly.

When your radio is on, you should monitor Channel 16 at all times. Channel 16 is where you will place and respond to calls, including emergency calls if necessary. Before making a call, listen for 30 seconds to make sure Channel 16 is not being used.



A TYPICAL CALL

A typical call should sound like this

Caller: "Noah's Ark, Noah's Ark, this is Jaws, OVER."
Response: "Jaws, this is Noah's Ark, OVER."

Once you make contact with the vessel you are calling, you must immediately shift to a "working" frequency. This is done to keep Channel 16 clear for other calls, including distress calls.

Caller: "Noah's Ark, this is Jaws, switch to channel 68, OVER."
Response: "This is Noah's Ark, Roger, OUT"

After switching to a working frequency, the initial contact on this channel is made by the vessel initiating the call.

Caller: "Noah's Ark, this is Jaws, OVER"
Response: "Jaws, this is Noah's Ark, OVER"

The call should continue on channel 68 (or other working frequency). Please keep the call as short as possible. When the call is complete, you should "sign out."

Caller: "This is Jaws, OUT."
Response: "This is Noah's Ark, OUT."

When you make or conclude a call, you must use your vessel name. If you do not get a response to your initial call, don't continue to call. Wait for three minutes and try your call again. Remember, other boaters may need to use the radio, too.

THE DO IS

- Whenever the radio is on, monitor Channel 16, unless you are communicating on another channel.
- When expecting a response from the vessel you are calling or conversing with, end your sentence with the proword **"OVER"**. When your conversation is complete, sign off using your vessel name and the proword **"OUT"**.

Remember, you are either "Over", or you are "Out". You are never, "Over and Out".

- Always switch to a working frequency once you have made contact. The most common working frequencies are:

Channel 68
Channel 69
Channel 71
Channel 72
Channel 78

- Set your radio to the low power setting whenever possible. You don't need the high power setting to talk to someone across the marina.
- Speak clearly and slowly with the microphone about one inch from your mouth. There is no need to shout, it distorts your transmission.
- Keep all communications as brief as possible.
- In areas where high radio congestion makes the use of Channel 16 difficult, Channel 9 may be used as an alternate hailing channel. Channel 9 is **not** monitored by search and rescue agencies, and therefore, should not be used for emergencies.
- Remember, the same rules that apply to Channel 16, also apply to Channel 9.

THE DON T IS

• **Don't** use profanity on the radio. It is a criminal offense to transmit obscene, profane or indecent language or meanings.

- **Don't** use CB lingo or police "10" codes.

• When you have completed your conversation on the working frequency, you do not need to say that you are switching back to Channel 16. This is actually required by law. Remember, all vessels are required to monitor Channel 16.

• To request a radio check you must call a specific station, and switch to a working frequency. A call to the Coast Guard or Ranger is not permitted. A general call is also not allowed.

• **Don't** use the VHF radio for transmitting on land.

• **Don't** monopolize any channel with long conversations or idle chatter.

• **Don't** let children use the radio or think it's a toy. **Don't** allow children to play on the boat without an adult present.

• **Don't** broadcast a Mayday unless there is immediate danger to life or property.

• **Don't** attempt a voice broadcast on Channel 70 as it is reserved for Digital Selective Calling (DSC) only.

